

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MOLYBDENUM IN JANUARY 2000

Domestic production of molybdenum in concentrate in January 2000 was about 11% less than that of the previous month and was 27% less than that of January 1999, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Producer stocks of molybdenum in concentrate, oxide, and other product forms were 9,900 metric tons at the beginning of 2000 and 9,000 metric tons at the end of January 2000.

Included in this Mineral Industry Surveys are U.S. production, shipments, and stocks of molybdenum concentrates and materials, plus U.S. consumption, by end use, of molybdenum in the previous and current months; also included are trade data for the previous month. During the current month, Platt's Metals Week U.S.

monthly average price for molybdenum concentrate was \$3.748 per kilogram (\$1.700 per pound). The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$5.575 per kilogram (\$2.529 per pound), and that for dealer ferromolybdenum was \$7.633 per kilogram (\$3.463 per pound).

For the week ending March 23, 2000, Metals Week U.S. average price for molybdenum concentrate was \$3.748 per kilogram (\$1.700 per pound). The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$5.550 per kilogram (\$2.522 per pound), and that for ferromolybdenum was \$7.606 per kilogram (\$3.450 per pound).

TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT MOLYBDENUM CONCENTRATE STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

	1999 p/ January- December	1999 December	2000	
			January	Year to date
Production	43,700	3,620	3,020	3,020
Shipments: 2/				
Domestic	29,100	1,210	1,170	1,170
Export	12,400	1,460	1,260	1,260

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ Includes molybdic oxides, metal powder, ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate, and other.

TABLE 2
U.S. REPORTED PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

	1999 p/ January- December	1999 December	2000	
			January	Year to date
Gross production	39,800	3,200	3,560	3,560
Internal consumption 2/	20,500	1,640	1,890	1,890
Gross shipments	39,000	3,540	3,810	3,810

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ Includes molybdic oxides, metal powder, ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate, and other.

TABLE 3
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USES, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF MOLYBDENUM MATERIALS 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

End use	Molybdic oxides	Ferro molyb- denum 2/	Ammonium and sodium molybdate	Molyb- denum scrap	Other	Total
1999, December:						
Steel:						
Carbon	25,100	21,600	--	--	3,190	49,900
High-strength low-alloy	44,100	8,340 r/	--	--	--	52,400 r/
Stainless and heat-resisting	297,000	40,900	--	--	4,760	343,000
Full alloy	161,000 r/	187,000	--	--	2,330	350,000 r/
Tool	67,700 r/	8,360 r/	--	--	1,450	77,500 r/
Total	595,000 r/	266,000 r/	--	--	11,700	873,000 r/
Cast irons (gray, malleable, and ductile iron)	W	34,300	--	--	763	35,100
Superalloys	61,900	W	--	(3/)	77,400	139,000
Alloys: (other than steels, cast irons, and superalloys)						
Welding materials (structural and hard-facing)	W	W	--	--	6	6
Other alloys	--	7,420	--	--	6,290	13,700
Mill products made from metal powder 4/	--	--	--	--	194,000	194,000
Cemented carbides and related products 5/	--	--	--	--	13	13
Chemical and ceramic uses:						
Pigments	--	--	1,890	--	--	1,890
Catalysts	77,300	--	W	--	W	77,300
Other	W	--	--	--	1,150	1,150
Miscellaneous and unspecified uses:						
Lubricants	--	--	--	--	11,000	11,000
Other	2,430	907 r/	74,200	--	14,900	92,500
Grand total	737,000 r/	309,000 r/	76,100	--	317,000	1,440,000 r/
Stocks, December 31, 1999	948,000	187,000 r/	3,700	18,200	836,000	1,990,000 r/

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 3--Continued
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USES, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF MOLYBDENUM MATERIALS 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

End use	Molybdic oxides	Ferro molyb- denum 2/	Ammonium and sodium molybdate	Molyb- denum scrap	Other	Total
2000, January:						
Steel:						
Carbon	27,500	25,000	--	--	3,190	55,700
High-strength low-alloy	33,400	8,490	--	--	--	41,900
Stainless and heat-resisting	252,000	41,100	--	--	4,760	298,000
Full alloy	112,000	179,000	--	--	2,330	293,000
Tool	W	9,230	--	--	1,450	10,700
Total	425,000	262,000	--	--	11,700	699,000
Cast irons (gray, malleable, and ductile iron)	1,830	33,500	--	--	763	36,100
Superalloys	70,600	W	--	(3/)	94,600	165,000
Alloys: (other than steels, cast irons, and superalloys)						
Welding materials (structural and hard-facing)	--	W	--	--	6	6
Other alloys	102	7,570	--	--	6,290	14,000
Mill products made from metal powder 4/	--	--	--	--	164,000	164,000
Cemented carbides and related products 5/	--	--	--	--	6	6
Chemical and ceramic uses:						
Pigments	--	--	W	--	--	W
Catalysts	77,300	--	W	--	W	77,300
Other	W	--	--	--	1,710	1,710
Miscellaneous and unspecified uses:						
Lubricants	--	--	--	--	16,900	16,900
Other	84,500	907	85,000	--	14,900	185,000
Grand total	660,000	304,000	85,000	--	311,000	1,360,000
Stocks, January 31, 2000	812,000	188,000	7,170	42,700	866,000	1,920,000

r/ Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Other" of the "Miscellaneous and unspecified uses" category.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes calcium molybdate.

3/ Included in "Other" of the "Superalloys" category.

4/ Includes ingot, wire, rod, and sheet.

5/ Includes construction, mining, oil and gas, metal working machinery.

TABLE 4
U.S. EXPORTS OF MOLYBDENUM ORES AND CONCENTRATES
(Including roasted concentrate), BY COUNTRY 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	1998	1999		
		November	December	Year to date
Australia	81,700	--	4,760	41,100
Belgium	4,470,000	220,000	487,000	4,740,000
Brazil	59,400	3,010	3,100	66,800
Canada	994,000	140,000	175,000	1,350,000
Chile	6,840,000	619	--	2,420,000
China	424,000	246,000	254,000	1,190,000
Germany	460,000	12,000	--	122,000
Italy	448,000	41,500	--	264,000
Japan	4,410,000	250,000	154,000	2,320,000
Korea, Republic of	8,660	10,900	8,690	210,000
Mexico	4,220,000	--	811	129,000
Netherlands	12,800,000	1,010,000	1,560,000	8,620,000
Spain	119,000	11,900	--	25,100
Sweden	894,000	59,600	11,800	613,000
United Kingdom	5,480,000	851,000	411,000	5,530,000
Other	247,000	55,000	58,600	207,000
Total	42,000,000	2,910,000	3,130,000	27,900,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF FERROMOLYBDENUM, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

	1999			
	1998	November	December	Year to date
Australia	1,800	653	1,470	20,900
Canada	549,000	66,300	561,000	5,020,000
China	133,000	--	209,000	3,270,000
Japan	31,200	4,780	49,800	3,230,000
Korea, Republic of	1,610	599	11,000	168,000
Mexico	91,000	3,080	79,700	654,000
Other	852	--	599	8,470
Total	809,000	75,400	913,000	12,400,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Kilograms unless otherwise specified)

Material	1998			1999		
	January-December			December		
	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (c.i.f.) (thousands)	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (c.i.f.) (thousands)
Ore and concentrates roasted	8,020,000	5,090,000	\$39,600	1,020,000	650,000	\$3,680
Ore and concentrates other	2,710,000	1,480,000	7,810	--	--	--
Molybdenum chemicals:						
Oxides and hydroxides	1,180,000	NA	9,610	17,100	NA	147
Molybdates of ammonium	1,240,000	684,000	8,980	72,600	42,900	369
Molybdates (all others)	192,000	114,000	982	37,000	17,000	157
Molybdenum orange	2,050,000	NA	7,950	64,200	NA	296
Mixtures of inorganic compounds	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ferromolybdenum	7,690,000	4,830,000	44,000	1,100,000	679,000	4,750
Molybdenum powders	110,000	103,000	3,210	13,000	12,200	362
Molybdenum unwrought	145,000	137,000	2,110	3,410	3,380	127
Molybdenum waste and scrap	296,000	292,000	4,080	33,400	33,000	508
Molybdenum wire	5,530	NA	500	1,000	NA	67
Molybdenum other	7,850	NA	1,650	1,880	NA	298
Total	23,700,000	12,700,000	130,000	2,360,000	1,440,000	10,800

NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.